AMENDMENTS OF THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph at p. 8, immediately after the paragraph that begins "FIG. 6 is an illustration ...:"

FIG. 7 is a simplified block diagram of an apparatus for detecting and suppressing ringing artifacts according to the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 8-25 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 4 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the ratio calculation performed at step 54 of FIG. 3. Initially, at step 72, the difference between the two inner adjacent input samples is calculated (slope1 = f1 - f0). Similarly, at step 74, the difference between the two outer input samples is calculated (step = f2 - f-1). Once these two values (slope1 and step) have been calculated, a test is performed at step 76 to determine if the value of slope1 is less than the value of zero. If slope1 is less than zero, the ratio is normalized at step 78. Normalization is performed by multiplying both the denominator and numerator of equation (2) (slope1 and step, respectively) by negative one (slope_denom = (-1)*slope1 and slope_num = (-1)*step). If slope1 is not less than zero, then slope1 and step are assigned the values of the denominator and numerator (slope_denom = slope1 and slope_num = step), respectively, at step 79.

Please add the following new paragraph at p. 15, immediately before the paragraph that begins "Referring to FIG. 3 ...:"

FIG. 7 is a simplified block diagram of an apparatus for detecting and suppressing ringing artifacts according to the present invention. The apparatus includes a processor 700 configured to perform the steps in FIGS. 4 and 5 described above.